



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Protecting California's agricultural lands from development



The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) utilizes Cap-and-Trade proceeds to protect agricultural lands on the outskirts of cities from development. Urban sprawl not only increases greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, as people have to drive further to get where they need to go, but also encroaches on agricultural lands that produce healthy food, store carbon and sustain our economy. SALC fights climate change by limiting these expansive, vehicle-dependent forms of development in favor of compact, transit-oriented communities.

“SALC fights climate change by limiting urban sprawl in favor of compact, transit-oriented communities.”



WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Strategy and Outcome Grants

- » Cities
- » Counties

Agricultural Conservation Easement Grants

- » Cities
- » Counties
- » Nonprofit Organizations
- » Resource Conservation Districts
- » Regional Park or Open-Space Districts or Authorities

WHAT DOES SALC FUND?

SALC funds projects that protect at-risk agricultural lands from conversion to more pollution-heavy land uses such as urban or rural residential development. The program provides two types of awards: Strategy and Outcomes grants and Agricultural Conservation Easement grants.

Strategy and Outcome grants support the development of local and regional land use policies and strategies to protect critical agricultural land.

The program funds the following strategies:

- » Establishing an agricultural land mitigation program
- » Creating an agricultural conservation easement purchasing program
- » Adopting an urban growth boundary
- » Increasing the zoning minimum for strategic agricultural areas
- » Setting in place an agricultural greenbelt

Agricultural Conservation Easement grants are used to permanently protect croplands and rangelands that are at-risk of conversion to sprawl development. Agricultural conservation easements are deed restrictions that landowners voluntarily place on their property to preserve the land's agricultural uses.

HOW ARE OUTCOMES TRACKED AND MONITORED?

Outcomes for each award are monitored through tracking greenhouse gas emissions reductions and identifying co-benefits of funded projects. The greenhouse gas quantification methodology is certified by the California Air Resources Board. Co-benefits include health, environmental and economic features identified by the applicant at the grant's onset.

WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

SALC simultaneously supports California's food security while encouraging infill development and clean transportation to curb sprawl. It fights climate change by encouraging compact development, making it easier for Californians to walk, bike and use transit in their daily lives. SALC also has the added benefit of helping retain local jobs and agricultural revenue, improving air and water quality, protecting wildlife habitats and improving human health.

**52 EASEMENTS
PROJECTS**
— TOTALING —
**81,081
ACRES**
— TO BE CONSERVED —

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<http://sgc.ca.gov/programs/salc/>